

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 L-03
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8147
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1044

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: E FIS XX CI
SUBJECT: SOVIET ANTARCTIC FISHING

REF: STATE 304164

THE CHILEAN NAVY FURNISHED DAO THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING
SOVIET ANTARCTIC FISHING:

A. THE SOVIETS BEGAN FISHING RESEARCH IN THE ANTARCTIC
IN 1958 BUT DID NOT CONDUCT SPECIFIC STUDIES ON KRILL UNTIL
1964. THE "MUKSUN" PERFORMED EXPEDITIONS BETWEEN 1961-1963.
BETWEEN 1964 AND 1970, THE "MUKSUN" WAS JOINED BY THE "AKADEMIC
KNIPOVICH" AND "LANGUST" IN EFFORTS TO LOCATE AREAS OF KRILL
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CONCENTRATION MAINLY IN THE WEDELL SEA, THE SCOTIA SEA, AND
SOUTH GEORGIA.

B. ACTUAL EXPLOITATION OF FISHING IN THE ANTARCTIC BEGAN
IN 1968, BUT THE SOVIETS DID NOT BEGIN EXPLOITNG KRILL UNTIL
FEBRUARY 1972, OPERATING SEVEN FACTORY SHIPS AROUND THE
KERQUEIN ISLANDS AND SUB-ANTARCTIC WATERS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA

AND SOUTH AFRICA, SUPPORTED BY SOME 100 FISHING VESSELS
(SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES, JULY 1973, P.36). AT THE
PRESENT TIME, THE SOVIET FISHING FACTORY SHIPS WITH STERN

TRAWINETS AND EQUIPMENT FOR PRODUCING KRILL PASTE. THESE
VESSELS RANGE FROM 3,500 TO 4,000 GTW. APPROXIMATELY 90 PERCENT
OF THE CATCH IS KRILL AND THE REMAINDER IS DEMERSAL SPECIES
SUCH AS NONOPTENIDAE.

C. THE STRUCTURE OF OPERATING COSTS FOR KRILL FISHING IS
SIMILAR TO THAT OF TRADITIONAL FISHING OPERATIONS IN ANY
OCEAN; HOWEVER, COST OF CAPTURE FOR THE SOVIETS IS INCREASED
DUE TO LONGER NAVIGATION TIME BETWEEN HOME PORTS IN THE
SOVIET UNION AND KRILL FISHING ZONES IN THE ANTARCTIC. THE SOVIETS
ESTIMATE A KRILL CATCH OF 46 TONS PER DAY PER SHIP AS THE
MINIMUM FOR ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY.

D. NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON SOVIET PLANS FOR
DEVELOPMENT OF KRILL FISHING IN THE ANTARCTIC.
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